



**Minutes
Extraordinary Meeting of the Corporation
Friday 6 November at 4.30pm
Remote access via Google Meet**

Present:	Daniel Clawson	Frank Pitkin
	Jo Croft	Janet Robertson
	Pippa Goodwin (<i>Chair</i>)	Dave Snowden
	Chris Lambert	Jeremy Spooner
	Gillian May (<i>Principal</i>)	Signe Sutherland
	Gareth Osborn	Ian Thomson
		Andrew Try

Apologies: Neil Dew-Gosling

In attendance: Tracy Reeve *Director of Governance*

70/20 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Neil Dew-Gosling.

71/20 Notification of any other business

There was no other business notified.

72/20 Notification of Members interests

There were no interests notified.

73/20 Minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2020

The minutes and matters arising were carried forward for approval to the next timetabled meeting in December 2020.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

74/20 FE Commissioner (FEC) Virtual Diagnostic Assessment

This matter was discussed following the notification email to all Governors sent on 4 November 2020. The meeting noted the letter to the Chair dated 3 November from the FE Commissioner, Richard Atkins. This letter informed the Chair that BCA had been referred for an FEC diagnostic assessment which would take place 'virtually' over a two-day period 14-15 December 2020. The referral had been made following analysis by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of BCA's July 2020 financial returns, which had concluded that there was a present or predicted decline in the college's financial health. Governors noted that the assessment was intended to support college governors and leadership in taking the right decisions to secure the future success of the institution. It could result in one of three outcomes: endorsement

of the college's approach; suggested actions to strengthen or supplement existing improvement plans; or escalation to formal intervention

The Principal confirmed that she had spoken to the Colleges ESFA Regional Director who had confirmed that 4 other colleges in his region were being subject to similar FEC diagnostic assessments. He asserted that BCA had been on a long list for review to meet due diligence requirements after receiving the Restructuring Facility Grant. The ESFA were not aware of BCA's inclusion but surmised that the college had been accelerated higher up this list due to the availability of FE Commissioner staff and also the fact that the college's year-end cash position at July 2020 did not meet the required 17 cash days. This level of cash days had been a Transaction Unit requirement, but BCA had secured agreement to a variation in this covenant which now required £250,000 cash at year end; Governors were reminded that BCA reported £437,000. The Exec Team did not foresee any issues with this visit and would look upon it as a very useful piece of external consultancy which could provide additional assurance for the Governing Body. The review of quality aspects would also add value to management controls and would provide a valuable external viewpoint for the Corporation.

The meeting noted the information required to be provided in advance of the visit, none of which would be problematic for the College. The series of meetings required and the input from Governors was also noted by the meeting. Governors commended this additional scrutiny of the Colleges' financial and quality/ strategic planning. The meeting noted the advice from the ESFA to make it explicitly clear to the FEC Team that prospects of gaining approval for the planning permission for the land at BCA was very good but the timing was delayed due to the impact of Covid-19. Governor (GO) concurred that his instinct was that the chances of securing planning were now as high as 75%; previously he had been naturally pessimistic.

The meeting NOTED the plans for the FEC Diagnostic Assessment on 14-15 December 2020.

The Governors would be given additional briefing in preparation for this visit at the Corporation meeting on 9th December 2020.

75/20 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 9th December 2020 at 4.30pm; this meeting would remain via Google Meet unless there was a change in Government guidance.

NOTED

76/20 Any Other Business

There was no other business.